COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the *25th of January 1934.*
12th of Makaram 1109.

The House met at half past eleven of the clock with the President in the chair. Messrs. K. G. Nayar, Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, C. A. Ouseph and A. Sankara Menon were absent.

Swearing in of a New Member.

Mr. Pandal Vaideekan Parameswaran Nambudiri (special member for the Nambudiri bill) took and subscribed the oath of allegiance.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Fire engine for Kunnamkulam—condition of.

91. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to inform (a) when was the fire engine purchased for Kunnamkulam in Kumbham 1106 sent to Kunnamkulam;

(b) how long this fire engine was kept in Trichur;

(c) whether the fire engine purchased for Kunnamkulam in Kumbham 1106 is now in sound working order;

(d) when did the other fire engine purchased in 1106 and referred to in the answer to question No. 283 of 7th August 1933 go out of order;

(e) how long it was kept without repairing;

(f) when was it repaired;

(g) who is the officer in charge of these fire engines?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) On 6th Karkadagam 1108.

(b) For 2 years and 5 months.

(c) Yes.

(d) On 16th Dhanu 1108.

(e) and (f) Action was taken to get it repaired as soon as the engine went out of order; the repairs were completed in Karkadagam 1108.

(g) The engines were in charge of the drivers of the respective engines, under the immediate supervision of the Reserve Superintendent of Police.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know whether this fire engine which has been sent to Kunnamkulam was made use of when recently fire broke out there?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Was it found to be very useful?

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Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How many houses were burnt ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I cannot say exactly. I want notice.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Are there many fire engines under the control of the Police Commissioner which are not in sound working order?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—They are all in working order.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—What is the state of the engine at Chittur?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—It is in good working order.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How long was it kept without being repaired?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Action was taken to get it repaired as soon as the engine went out of order.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is it not possible to find out the date from the records?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—It is not possible. It has not been a case of sudden break-down. It has been gradually wearing out.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How many months have passed after this engine has been purchased?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I think it was purchased in 1106.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know whether it was an old engine which was purchased after paying the price of a new one?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Government are not in the habit of purchasing second-hand things.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Are the engines tested periodically ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—They are tested.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Was this engine able to be used after repair?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—It is now in working order.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Is the Commissioner aware that 100 houses were burnt?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I have not received any information fit to be given here.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—How can you protect the house? The houses will be burnt before the engine is brought.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—It is intended to protect the neighbouring houses.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Were you able to protect the neighbouring houses?

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Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I presume so.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—May I know the approximate number of houses which were recently burnt?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—About 30 thatched houses were burnt. But I speak subject to correction.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will you just look into the matter?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I will.

Construction of bridge at Vettikadavu—action on petition for.

92. **Mr. K. T. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received a petition dated 14th Chingam 1109 from Mr. Paramel Ipe Chummar and others in Kunnamkulam, Pazhanji, Pengamuk, Mangad and other villages addressed to the Diwan through the Chief Engineer praying to construct a bridge at Vettikadavu; and if so,

(b) whether the petition will be printed and placed on the table, and state

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the petition is placed on the table. (*Appendix I.*)

(c) The relative importance of this route as compared with other projected routes between Kunnamkulam and Palanji is being considered.

Economic depression—fall in prices of agricultural products—revenue sales.

93. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Agriculturists in Cochin are very much affected by the fall in price of the agricultural products; if so, what relief measures were undertaken by Government in order to protect them from their present pitiable condition;

(b) the number of proceedings taken by the Revenue Department against immovable and movable properties in each taluk during the year 1108 to realise land revenue.

(c) how many of them were withdrawn and in how many cases sales were conducted;

(d) how many were confirmed;

(e) how much land were sold and the amounts for which they were sold and the amounts actually realised by each sale?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—(a) The attention of the member is invited to the Diwan's Proceedings dated 28/11/1933, R4—470/09, Revenue Department, published at pages 157 and

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